Career perspectives: Why do a PhD?

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Director Doctoral School Biomedical Sciences

6 December 2017 Infosession master students

Long live our education system?

Our high school students are the world top according to PISA study,...
Why do a PhD?

NOT

The PhD process
Career options
Getting started

You don’t need a PhD for all jobs

- PhD
- Research
- M&C
- CRA/CTA
- Student
- Teaching
- Unknown
- Rest

Anouk Desmet: Employment BMS students
Why do a PhD?

The PhD process

Career options

Getting started

Doing a PhD requires a passion for research
The three components of doctoral training

- Truncus communis:
  - Scientific article
  - Progress reports
  - International meeting
  - Attend seminars
  - Scientific Integrity

Doctoral training

Thematic research training

Transferable skills training

The PhD process:
Training talented researchers for society

PhD 100%

University 9%
Industry
NGO
Public sector
Teaching 91%

http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/phd
Why do a PhD?

The PhD process

Career options

Getting started

A PhD will boost your career

Career opportunities Galapagos

Bron: Véronique Deiteren, HR officer Galapagos
A PhD helps you getting a job

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VDAB does not distinguish between PhD and MSc
→ # are too low to be significant!

A PhD will get you a suitable job

Salary increase of PhD compared to MSc [%]


Prof. Luc Sels, Dean Faculty of Economics & Business, KU Leuven – Sept 2013
A PhD scholarship pays the bills

- Gross starting salary master students ~2400€
- Net salary PhD student 1900-2100 €

Why do a PhD?

The PhD process
Career options
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Start looking for a PhD... 

NOW!

Were should I look?

Ask your thesis promotor & others

Check the website of the KU Leuven
(http://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/en/phd)

Check websites & Social media
International job sites:
Euraxess (EU) http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index
Nature (global): http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/biomedical-science

Social media with job boards:
ResearchGate: www.researchgate.net
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Web sites of other institutes:
EBML http://www.embl.de/aboutus/index.html
Cambridge: http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/gradadmissions/prospec/

Why do a PhD: Checklist

I have a passion for research ✔
I want to develop my soft skills ✔
It fits with my career plan ✔
Your PhD
your future

http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/phd
https://set.kuleuven.be/phd/